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| **TPCASTT: Poem Analysis Method:** title, paraphrase, connotation, diction, attitude, tone, shift(s), title revisited and theme | |
| **T** | **I think the Title of poem means:**  The poem is probably about the Battle of the Somme specifically. |
| **P** | **Paraphrase parts of the Poem**  On July 1st, 1916  The battle began.  Guns were fired and men were shot,  The air was thick with smoke, and the ground was drenched with blood.  The French and British came to fight the Germans,  To The Battle of the Somme, the deadliest battle of the War.  …  Even though the plan had its risks,  The British and French decided it was time for a mass assault.  So Britain’s tanks were brought out to the battle field  And the tanks were responsible for the end of the battle.  They brought the tank into enemy territory  And the Germans were greatly threatened.  The British had found a way  To avenge the deaths of their friends.  As more of the Germans died  The British and French continued to make progress.  Even though the battle was not yet over,  The allies had more hope.  They determinedly fought the Germans,  And surprised them.  Even though the Germans did not retreat,  The battle is considered a victory for the Allied Powers.  On November 21st, 1916  The battle ended.  The fighting was over but many people had died,  The air was still thick with smoke and the ground soaked with blood.  The French and British had come to fight the Germans,  To the Battle of the Somme, the deadliest battle of the War. |
| **C** | **Connotation of some of the words—changing literal meaning to implied or associated values**  Rhyme and rhythm: The poem rhymes, giving it a flow that follows the whole idea continuously. It also has a rhythm that matches the way it rhymes and gives it a steady pulse.  Personification: “Machine guns screamed out” – It indicates the violence and intensity of the scene.  Imagery: “The sky was still black, the ground was stained red” – It paints a picture, describing what the scene looks like. |
| **A** | **Attitude—What is the attitude of the author, characters, or yourself?**  The attitude is rather mournful. It is repeatedly mentioned that men keep on dying. Even though the battle ended eventually, many people lost their lives. |
| **S** | **Shift—At first we think or feel one way—then there is a shift: identify the shifts and explain them**  But this is when the slaughter started, Machine guns screamed out as bodies and limbs became parted. Fifty-eight thousand casualties in one single day ‘A necessary loss’ the Generals would say. ‘We will rest for now and recommence tomorrow No time for the men to indulge in their sorrow’ So they readied the next batch of men for the slaughter, Would they fare better when faced with the mortars?  Here we feel rather resentful of the Generals, but prepared for the next move.  The answer to this question was obviously no As the casualty counts continued to grow. For every single centimeter of ground that was taken The lives of two men were sadly forsaken. And so the battle waged on and on, The bloodiest battle of World War One.  Our hopes just fell, and the feeling is now hopeless.  Yet as they made progress towards German lines, The allies had one thing in the front of their minds. For the Germans had a weapon the allies had yet to discover One that would find men even if they took cover. As the allied assault drew nearer and nearer The time to use this weapon had never been clearer.  Despite everything, our hopes are now raised in expectation.  The little grey canisters flew through the air Giving the allied forces more than a scare. The men now engaged in a fight for their lives, They could not protect themselves with their guns or their knives. Their only weapon now was a mask But fitting it in time was a very hard task. ‘Gas, Gas!’ some men would cry Most had masks, the rest would die. Their screams could be heard as they approached their death, Blood curdled in their lungs as they drew their last breath. Eventually their eyes would roll back in their head And with a final twitch and spasm they lay still, dead.  The attitude turns frantic, and then subsides into a feeling of giving up. |
| **T** | **Title revisited—any new insights on meaning or significance of title.**  The title now simply has more meaning, containing the dramatic and harsh details of the event. It encompasses a whole story. |
| **T** | **Theme or Author’s Purpose**  The author’s purpose is to show the consequences of war and the difficult process of battle. No matter how hard the soldiers fought, they barely made any progress, and the cost was great. When all was said and done, too many people had died. |